

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 /083 W  
-----251301Z 107669 /43

O P 251225Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1125

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: LAMP DOWN CONTINUES

1. OVER THE WEEKEND, BHUTTO EMPLOYED THE IRON FIST, WITHOUT THE VELVET GLOVE, TO TIGHTEN HIS CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY AND TO PUT THE OPPOSITION ON THE DEFENSIVE. THE ARMY IS DAILY BECOMING MORE IDENTIFIED WITH BHUTTO (TO THEIR OWN DISCOMFORT WE BELIEVE) AS HE TURNS TO THE MILITARY TO KEEP HIM IN POWER. WE WILL BE DOING SEPARATE CABLE ON THE ROLE OF THE ARMY AS WE NOW SEE IT. CONGENS KARACHI AND LAHORE WILL BE REPORTING SECURITY SITUATION IN THEIR AREAS SEPARATELY.

2. CONGEN LAHORE HAS REPORTED ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION LEADERS

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DURING THE WEKEND. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT AS MANY AS 65 PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE LEADERS WERE PICKED UP SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AND ARE STILL BEING HELD. IN ADDITION TO THE ONES REPORTED FROM LAHORE (LAHORE 419), BEGUM HANIF RAMAY - WIFE OF JAILED FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB - AND AKBAR BUGTI - FORMER GOVERNOR OF BALUCHISTAN - HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRESTED. ARMY CONTINUES TO ENFORCE MARTIAL LAW AND CURFEWS

IN KARACHI, LAHORE AND NYDERABAD AND HAVE ISSUED SERIES OF STRINGENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ALL THREE CITIES.

3. RESIGNATIONS FROM THE PPPFCONTINUE AT A SLOW PACE. MOST NOTABLE TO LEAVE SO FAR AND FIRST MINISTER TO DO SO WAS NOOR HAYAT KAHN NOON, FEDERAL MINISTER OF TOURISM, WHO, ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN NAWA-I-WAQT, RESIGNED FROM THE ASSEMBLY AND THE PARTY ON APRIL 24. NOON CALLED FOR THE PM TO FORM AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE AS A PRELUDE TO NEW ELECTIONS. BHUTTO REFUSED AND NOON RESIGNED. PROMINENT PUNJABI POLITICIAN, FORMER MUSLIM LEAGUER AND PP MNA MIAN SALAHUDDIN ALSO RESIGNED FROM THE PAR TY AND HIS ASSEMBLY SEAT DURING THE WEEKEND.

4. APRIL 24 PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT AHMED SAEED KIRMANI HAS BEEN FIRED. THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT KIRMANI HAS BEEN GUILTY OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN "SERIOUS FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES" IN THE EMBASSY, AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS. WE KNOW KIRMANI WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS SUPPORTERS IN LAHORE TO RESIGN (CAIRO 6393 CONFIRMED REPORTS CIRCULATING IN PAKISTAN) AND THE GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY DECIDED TO PREEMPT THIS POSSIBILITY AND ITS ATTENDANT PUBLICITY.  
CONSTABLE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009